

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2510
Landsdowne Methodist Church
112-116 Lavern Avenue
Baltimore, Baltimore County
1895
Private

Constructed in 1895, the Landsdowne Methodist Church predates the subdivision of Landsdowne as a Baltimore City suburb. Landsdowne, originally known as Joshua, did not take shape until after the turn-of-the-20th century. In 1909, Charles W. Hull purchased 766 acres of land along Old Annapolis Road for \$30,000 with the intent of subdividing the previously rural tract that was owned in the late 19th century by the Randle, Ring, Caton, and Linthicum families. Through the early 20th century, the development of the Landsdowne community was aided by its proximity to rail service. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which passed near Landsdowne made the community accessible as a suburban residential subdivision. The 1915 county atlas reveals that, although the community was planned in a rectilinear form, its central focal point was the public school. By 1915, a fire station and three churches were established in the community, while a post office anchored the west side of the subdivision. However, little development of the lots had occurred by the mid-1910s. With the growth of Baltimore, Landsdowne has become a near suburb on the city's southwest side.

The Landsdowne Methodist Church is a one-story Gothic Revival style building with an irregular L-shaped footprint and asymmetrical façade. Concrete block reinforces a portion of the solid random rubble stone foundation, which supports a wood frame structural system clad partially in aluminum siding. Formstone, which was applied in 1948, covers the west and south elevations. The church is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Lavern and Baltimore Avenues, resulting in the presence of two primary elevations. The façade, however, fronts west. The square tower, located at the intersection of the cross-gabled church, is surmounted by a tall steeple of wood frame construction with a steeply pitched roof clad in sheet metal. The rectangular base of the steeple is paneled, while ventilators pierce the shaft directly above the base. Entry is gained through the west elevation of the tower, which features a single-leaf wood door with a pointed-arch stained glass transom. The gable ends of the church are pierced by symmetrical, tripartite multi-light stained glass windows with wood mullion tracery. A large, two-story addition finished with stucco was constructed circa 1950. The circa 1910 parsonage, sited to the east of the church, is a two-and-a-half-story foursquare with little detailing that ties it to a specific architectural style. The dwelling features a random American bond brick foundation and structural system below an asphalt-shingled hipped roof.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2510

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Landsdown Methodist Church (preferred)

other Landsdown United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 112-116 Lavern Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore County

street and number 114 Lavern Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21227

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber Not Available folio Not Available

city, town Towson tax map 109 tax parcel 357 tax ID number 1313400000

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2510

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1895, the Landsdowne Methodist Church is a one-story Gothic Revival style building with an irregular L-shaped footprint and asymmetrical façade. Concrete block reinforces a portion of the solid random rubble stone foundation, which supports a wood frame structural system clad partially in aluminum siding. Formstone, which was applied in 1948, covers the west and south elevations. The church is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Lavern and Baltimore Avenues, resulting in the presence of two primary elevations. The façade, however, fronts west. The square tower, located at the intersection of the cross-gabled church, is surmounted by a tall steeple of wood frame construction with a steeply pitched roof clad in sheet metal. The rectangular base of the steeple is paneled, while ventilators pierce the shaft directly above the base. Entry is gained through the west elevation of the tower, which features a single-leaf wood door with a pointed-arch stained glass transom. The gable ends of the church are pierced by symmetrical, tripartite multi-light stained glass windows with wood mullion tracery. A large, two-story addition finished with stucco was constructed circa 1950.

The circa 1910 parsonage, sited to the east of the church, is a two-and-a-half-story foursquare with little detailing that ties it to a specific architectural style. The dwelling features a random American bond brick foundation and structural system below an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. The four-bay-wide building is pierced by an offset entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf door and seven 9/9 vinyl windows. A hipped-roof dormer with a two-light sliding vinyl window projects from the roof. The porch has been removed from the structure.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2510

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1895-present

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1895, 1945

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed in 1895, the Landsdowne Methodist Church predates the subdivision of Landsdowne as a Baltimore City suburb and is representative of the many Gothic Revival style churches erected throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Landsdowne, originally known as Joshua, did not take shape until after the turn-of-the-20th century. In 1909, Charles W. Hull purchased 766 acres of land along Old Annapolis Road for \$30,000 with the intent of subdividing the previously rural tract that was owned in the late 19th century by the Randle, Ring, Caton, and Linthicum families.¹ Through the early 20th century, the development of the Landsdowne community was aided by its proximity to rail service. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which passed near Landsdowne made the community accessible as a suburban residential subdivision.² The 1915 county atlas reveals that, although the community was planned in a rectilinear form, its central focal point was the public school. The east-west streets were laid numerically from first to fifth, and then the remaining four were provided names: Elizabeth, Hazel, Lavern, and Clyde. The north-south streets were named after cities, including Baltimore, Washington, Charleston, and Saratoga. By 1915, a fire station and three churches were established in the community, while a post office anchored the west side of the subdivision. However, little development of the lots had occurred by the mid-1910s.³ With the growth of Baltimore, Landsdowne has become a near suburb on the city's southwest side.

The vernacular wood-frame church was constructed in the Gothic Revival style. Reflective of this style are the off-center tower and steeple and multi-light pointed-arch windows. Although introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, a landscape architect, popularized the Gothic Revival during the last half of the 19th century as a reaction against Classicism.

¹ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 315; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

² Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 158.

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2510

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1895, the Landsdown Methodist Church has been associated with Lots 118-126 and part of 127, comprising a portion of tax parcel 357 of map 109 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

BA-2513
1709 WOODSIDE AVENUE
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2510
112-114 LAVERN AVENUE
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2509

RELAY QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 RELAY 15' QUADRANGLE

5662 I SE
(BALTIMORE EA)





BA-2570

112-116 LAVERN AVENUE, BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SW CORNER

1 of 3



BA-2510

112-116 CAVERN AVENUE, BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/12001

MD SHPO

NW CORNER

20f3



BA-2510

112-116 LAVERN AVENUE, BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

SE CORNER + PARSONAGE

3 of 3

BA-2510

LANSDOWNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Before 1898 - 112 Lavern Avenue, Lansdowne. Located at the northeast corner of Lavern and Baltimore Avenues. Frame Gothic Revival church, now covered with Formstone. Gable roofed. With square belfry tower. Lancet windows. Sunday school attached, but numbered 116 Lavern Avenue. The Parsonage is in American Four Square Colonial Revival, built of brick with a hip roof; it has been shorn of its front porch. The church first appears on Plate 9 of Bromley's 1898 atlas.